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AID FROM CIA CALLED PART OF U.S. POLICY

White House Indorses
Preliminary Report
By Katzenbach

By PHILIP POTTER

(Washington Bureau of The Sun)

Washington, Feb. 23 — The White House today indorsed a report by Nicholas Katzenbach, Under Secretary of State, that the CIA's secret funding of student and other private organizations was done in accord with national policy in effect "under four Presidents."

The brief report to the President, apparently designed in part as a morale-restorer for employees of the CIA, said: "It is vitally important that the current controversy over its support of certain private organizations not be permitted to obscure the value, or impede the effectiveness, of competent and dedicated career officials serving this country."

N.S.A., Guild Named

President Johnson last week named Katzenbach, John Gardner, Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, and Richard Helms, CIA director, to look into the issues raised by disclosure that the CIA had been giving financial support to the National Student Association and other groups, apparently including the American Newspaper Guild, to promote their anti-Communist work overseas.

In his letter to the President, dated yesterday, Katzenbach also said the inquiry that he, Gardner and Helms are making to correct any Government activity compromising the "integrity and independence" of the educational community, would be finished "in the very near future."

Underscores Basic Facts
Conclusions and recommendations, he predicted, would be in the President's hands in early March.

"In the interval," Katzenbach wrote, "there are certain basic facts with respect to past activities of the Central Intelligence Agency which should be underscored."

"When the CIA lent financial support to the work of certain American private organizations it did not act on its own initiatives but in accordance with national policies established by the National Security Council [a White House agency] in 1952 through 1954."

"Throughout it acted with the approval of senior interdepartmental review committees, including the secretaries of state and defense or their representatives."

"These policies have, therefore, been in effect under four Presidents (Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy and Johnson)."

"The support provided by the Central Intelligence Agency enabled many far-sighted courageous Americans to serve their country in times of challenge and danger to the United States and the free world."

"The President Agrees"

"Furthermore, the Central Intelligence Agency has been and continues to be, indispensable to the security of this nation."

The Katzenbach memorandum was written in response to an inquiry Katzenbach got from Mr. Johnson Tuesday, the day morning newspapers carried

articles quoting Vice President Humphrey as stating to Stanford University students that he was "not at all happy about what the CIA has been doing," and Secretary Gardner as having issued a statement defending the existence of the CIA, but declaring it a "mistake" for the agency to have involved itself covertly with educational groups.

When releasing Katzenbach's letter to the President at the White House today, George Christian, press secretary, said: "The President agrees with the conclusions in this preliminary report."

To Ease Ruffled Feelings

The Humphrey and Gardner statements are known to have caused some dismay in CIA ranks, and it is obvious the Administration publication of the Katzenbach memorandum today was designed to ease ruffled feelings.

Senator Kennedy (D., N.Y.) had lost no time ranging himself among CIA defenders, stating Tuesday that it was "unfair to make the CIA" take the rap for doing things that had been approved by "all relevant Government agencies" including the White House "in the Eisenhower, Kennedy and Johnson Administrations."

Meanwhile, in Congress, Senator Nelson (D., Wis.) charged that secret CIA subsidies, Government wiretapping and the wide use of detective agencies showed a drift toward "police-state tactics" in America's free society.

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